D.C. ZONING
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October 20, 2003

Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in reference to BZA Case 17043 regarding parking requirements at the MedLink Hospital.

I am a native of the District of Columbia and my husband has lived in the District for almost ten years. We purchased a townhome across the street from MedLink Hospital approximately seven months ago. Prior to that time, we lived at 6th and Pennsylvania, NW, Washington. Parking and noise were the main reasons we left the Penn Quarter and moved to Capitol Hill.

The Medlink Hospital was recently granted a reduction in required parking spaces which has created significant parking issues for our neighborhood. On any given evening the number of parking spaces taken up by employees and visitors to the hospital make it impossible for residents of the homes in the neighborhood to park. Vehicles are constantly parked illegally and/or double-parked in front of the hospital, and many times blocking the alley that leads to the back entrance of our house. Additionally, the ambulances routinely double park in front of the hospital instead of parking at the emergency entrance on the opposite side. These are not emergency deliveries, but rather non-emergency stops where there are no flashing lights. We have complained to the hospital and they correct the problem for a few weeks and then it begins again. Please consider the following points as you review this letter.

1) BZA should revoke the Certificates of Occupancy because the Zoning Administrator issued them without input from BZA or the community.

2) BZA should require MedLink's owners to provide the same number of parking spaces as in BZA's existing orders, which establish how much parking is adequate for the facility. There are up to 176 parking spaces in MedLink's underground garage. There is no reason for the owner not to use all available on-site parking spaces to reduce parking pressure on the neighborhood streets.

3) There is no evidence of any change in the scale of operations at MedLink. The owner appears to have sought the new Certificate of Occupancy for the sole purpose of reducing parking requirements.

4) MedLink is staffed 24 hours a day, so employees can park on the street during hours not covered by the residential parking program, making it hard for residents to park on evenings and weekends.

BZA
Case No. 17043
Exhibit No. 90

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17043
EXHIBIT NO. 90

5) MedLink has a consistent history of disobeying the parking requirements imposed by BZA.

6) Any reduction in the parking requirements should be conducted through a public process with opportunity for discussion of the adverse impact that reducing the required parking spaces will have on the surrounding residential area.

Thank you for your time and for considering the information contained in this letter.

Sincerely,

Monica Haskell

Monica Haskell
Union Square Resident
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